

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KABUL 03122 041333Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 SSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 EUR-12 /048 W
-----041956Z 126400 /46

R 041030Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2548
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 3122

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, AF, ID, GW
SUBJECT: NEW AFGHAN AMBASSADORS APPOINTED

REF: KABUL 2380 (NOTAL)

1. RADIO AFGHANISTAN ANNOUNCED EVENING MAY 2 THAT FAIZ MOHAMMAD HAS BEEN APPOINTED AMBASSADOR TO JAKARTA, AND MOHAMMAD BASHIR LUNDIN AMBASSADOR TO BONN. IN ADDITION, EMBOFF WAS TOLD SAME EVENING THAT AMBASSADOR HASSAN SHARQ WILL DEPART IN ABOUT A WEEK TO TAKE UP HIS DUTIES IN TOKYO. BRIEF BIOGRAPHIES ON MOHAMMAD AND LUDIN FOLLOW.

2. FAIZ MOHAMMAD, IN HIS MID-THIRTIES, WAS EDUCATED AT THE KABUL MILITARY ACADEMY AND RECEIVED SOME MILITARY TRAINING IN THE SOVIET UNION ABOUT 1970. AS A PARATROOP CAPTAIN HE PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN THE JULY 1973 COUP WHICH BROUGHT DAOUD TO POWER. FOLLOWING THE COUP, HE SERVED AS MINISTER OF INTERIOR (UNTIL 1975) AND AS MINISTER OF FRONTIER AFFAIRS; HE WAS NOT INCLUDED IN THE CABINET ANNOUNCED ON MARCH 17, 1977. HE SERVED AS A MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE FROM THE COUP IN 1973 UNTIL ITS ABOLITION EARLIER THIS YEAR. HE IS PROUD OF HIS PUSHTUN TRIBAL BACKGROUND, AND REPORTEDLY SPEAKS EXCELLENT RUSSIAN, AS WELL AS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KABUL 03122 041333Z

FAIR ENGLISH WHICH HE IS TRYING TO IMPROVE. FAIZ MOHAMMAD REPORTEDLY HAS HAD SOME ASSOCIATIONS WITH THE PARCHAM PARTY (PRO-SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY) IN AFGHANISTAN. HIS GRADUAL DECLINE IN POWER AND PRESTIGE MAY BE PART OF AN OVERALL EFFORT BY PRESIDENT DAOUD TO REMOVE PERSONS PERCEIVED AS LEFTISTS FROM THE AFGHAN CABINET AND OTHER HIGH POSITIONS. THERE IS GOOD EVIDENCE THE SOVIETS HAVE VIEWED HIM AS WELL-DISPOSED TOWARDS THE SOVIET

UNION. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE IS RESPECTED AS AN INTELLIGENT AND COMPETENT INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS BEEN CORDIAL TO U.S. EMBASSY OFFICERS ON SOCIAL OCCASIONS AND HELPFUL ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS MATTERS.

3. MOHAMMAD BASHIR LUDIN IS IN HIS MID-FORTIES AND IS THE YOUNGEST BROTHER OF MOHAMMAD KABIR LUDIN, FORMER AMBASSADOR (NOW DECEASED) TO THE UNITED STATES, THE UNITED KINGDOM, AND INDIA. LUDIN WAS EDUCATED AT ENGLISH ORIENTED SCHOOLS IN KABUL, AND RECEIVED A B.A. IN CIVIL ENGINEERING FROM GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY. LUDIN'S CAREER HAS CENTERED PRINCIPALLY ON PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS, BUT HE HAS HAD EXECUTIVE EXPERIENCE AS GOVERNOR OF BOTH FARAH AND BALKH PROVINCES. LUDIN IS GENERALLY CONSIDERED AN EXTREMELY COMPETENT AND HONEST AFGHAN OFFICIAL, AND HIS BACKGROUND WOULD SUGGEST THAT HE WOULD BE AMENABLE TO APPROACHES BY HIS AMERICAN COLLEAGUES.
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